

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05897 141754Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS LONDON 05897

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: UK, EEC
SUBJECT: RALF DAHRENDORF: BRITAIN IS "NOT THE NAUGHTY
BOY OF EUROPE"

1. THE LONDON "TIMES" RECENTLY REPORTED THE COMMENTS
OF RALF DAHRENDORF, FORMERLY STATE SECRETARY IN THE FRG
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CURRENT HEAD OF THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS, TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS WEST GERMANY AND
NOT BRITAIN THAT IS HAMPERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE.
WE PASS ON SOME OF HIS OBSERVATIONS, APPARENTLY PUBLISHED
IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF "E.G. MAGAZIN" IN BONN, BECAUSE
THEY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF AN EMINENT GERMAN WHICH
CHALLENGE THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM REGARDING BRITAIN'S
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PAGE 02 LONDON 05897 141754Z

BEHAVIOR IN THE COMMUNITY.

-- "ADMITTEDLY WE HAVE EXPERIENCED A FEW SAMPLES OF
BRITISH DIRECTNESS IN THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. THIS
DIRECTNESS WAS NEITHER PARTICULARLY POLITE NOR, INCIDENT-
TALLY, PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO THE BRITISH CAUSE ..."

-- "BUT THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THAT IN BRITAIN,
UNLIKE MOST OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY THE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC, EUROPE IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY. EUROPEAN ISSUES ARE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC WITH GREAT FEELING AND ARE SEEN AS AFFECTING IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY."

-- IN BRITAIN, "EUROPE IS REAL, SOMETIMES AS A HOPE, SOMETIMES AS A THREAT, BUT ALWAYS AS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN POLITICS ..."

-- "IN GERMANY, EUROPE IS NOW BURIED UNDER A THICK HAZE OF BOREDOM, SOMETHING FOR THE B-TEAM AND IN ANY CASE ONLY WORTH TEN LINES ON THE BACK (USUALLY ECONOMIC) PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPERS."

-- "WHO HAS IMPEDED GREAT STEPS FORWARD IN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT? A LITTLE SELF-INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND THE CITING OF FUSION RESEARCH IS NEGLIGIBLE IN THE FACE OF GREATER ISSUES." ... "WHO MADE ECONOMIC DEMANDS WHICH AMOUNTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES TRANSFORMING THEIR ENTIRE ECONOMIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THEIR OWN PREFERENCES?" ... "AND AS REGARDS POLITICAL COOPERATION- WHO DEMANDED THE LOUDEST THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES CERTAIN PARTIES SHOULD NOT COME TO POWER IF SUCH COOPERATION WAS TO CONTINUE?"

-- "I DO NOT SAY SUCH ARGUMENTS ARE UNJUSTIFIED, BUT ONE MUST POINT OUT THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S INSISTENCE ON ITSELF AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS HAS IN THE PAST ALWAYS BEEN THE REAL OBSTACLE TO FUNDAMENTAL PROGRESS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY."

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PAGE 03 LONDON 05897 141754Z

BREWSTER

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